

Amendments to the Specification:

Amend the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 21, which was amended by the July 4, 2004 Preliminary Amendment, as follows:

Therefore, it is an object of the invention ~~may to~~ improve the immersion nozzle of the type mentioned above in such a way that there is an improvement in the flow profile even with larger slab widths.

Amend the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 24, which was amended by the July 4, 2004 Preliminary Amendment, as follows:

In an immersion nozzle for a metallurgic vessel arranged upstream of a casting device in which a slit-shaped pour-out opening having a length that is several times greater than its width is provided in the mouth area, the above-stated object is met, in that its cross section widens in the direction of its mouth from a round inlet cross section to a mouth cross section whose one or first semiaxis is smaller than, and whose other or second semiaxis extending perpendicular thereto is greater than, the semiaxis of the round or circular inlet cross section and whose bottom shape or base shape corresponds to that of the body of revolution of an ellipse or of an oval mouth cross section around the greater semiaxis, and in that the slit-shaped outlet opening extends in direction of the greater semiaxis.

Amend the last paragraph beginning on page 3, line 6, which was added by the July 4, 2004 Preliminary Amendment, as follows:

A The preferred embodiment as shown in Figures 1 and 2 is discussed further below. The immersion nozzle 1 is for a metallurgical casting device and it acts as a guide for molten metal (not

shown) passing through the nozzle. The immersion nozzle 1 has a round cross section 10 ~~which is an inlet section located at a top one or inlet end~~ 1a of the immersion nozzle 1 and the round cross section 10 has a diameter d oriented along a first axis. ~~A base area 12 has an exit slot or The slit shaped pour out opening 2, which forms an elliptical mouth opening 2, is located at the base area 3 of the other or outlet end 12 of the immersion nozzle 1 +2, the base area 12.~~ The immersion nozzle 1 has a ~~top front~~ section 1c with an increasing width (compare W1 to W2) towards the ~~base area outlet end 12~~ and a ~~bottom back~~ section 1b with an increasing width towards the ~~base area outlet end 12~~. As seen in Figure 2, the immersion nozzle has side wall sections 4 connecting the ~~top front~~ section 1c to the ~~bottom back~~ section 1b ~~and having a decreasing height (see H1 and H2) towards the base area (12).~~ The elliptical mouth opening 2 spans the width of the ~~top front~~ section at the base area (see W2) and further extends into the side wall sections (see 2a). The elliptical mouth opening 2 shape may widen a flow of the molten metal and create a backflow outside the immersion nozzle which provides improved melting of casting powder located on the surface of a melt.